



## **Regional Event Outlook - August 10-12, 2014**

### **Western Thunderstorm & Lightning Outbreak**

**Updated**

#### **Upcoming Event:**

- A low pressure system will form off the west coast on Saturday and settle to just off the northern CA coast by Sunday. The dynamics of this system along with residual moisture, daytime heating and a strengthening jet stream will result in perfect conditions for a significant and widespread thunderstorm outbreak event beginning Sunday and continuing through at least **Tuesday**, with nocturnal storms a good possibility. A significant number of dry lightning strikes are expected with these storms along with strong gusty outflow winds.
- Warm and very dry conditions currently exist and are forecast to continue throughout much of this region this weekend and into early next week.
- All of these ingredients add up to high potential for several large fire starts. Northwest CA and southwest OR look to be the focus of this event although the rest of northern CA and the rest of OR will likely see thunderstorms as well.
- The low pressure system weakens and begins to lift northeast across the Great Basin by Wednesday.

#### **Potential Impacts:**

- Numerous large fire starts with rapid fire spread associated with either lightning or strong winds and low humidity.
- Smoke from fires having an impact on visibilities and air quality over a large area and a great distance.
- Temporary closure of transportation routes due to active fires.
- Temporary closure of portions of National Parks during the height of the tourist season.
- Additional large fire incidents will tax already depleted federal/state/local resources as well as IMET resources.

#### **Key Points:**

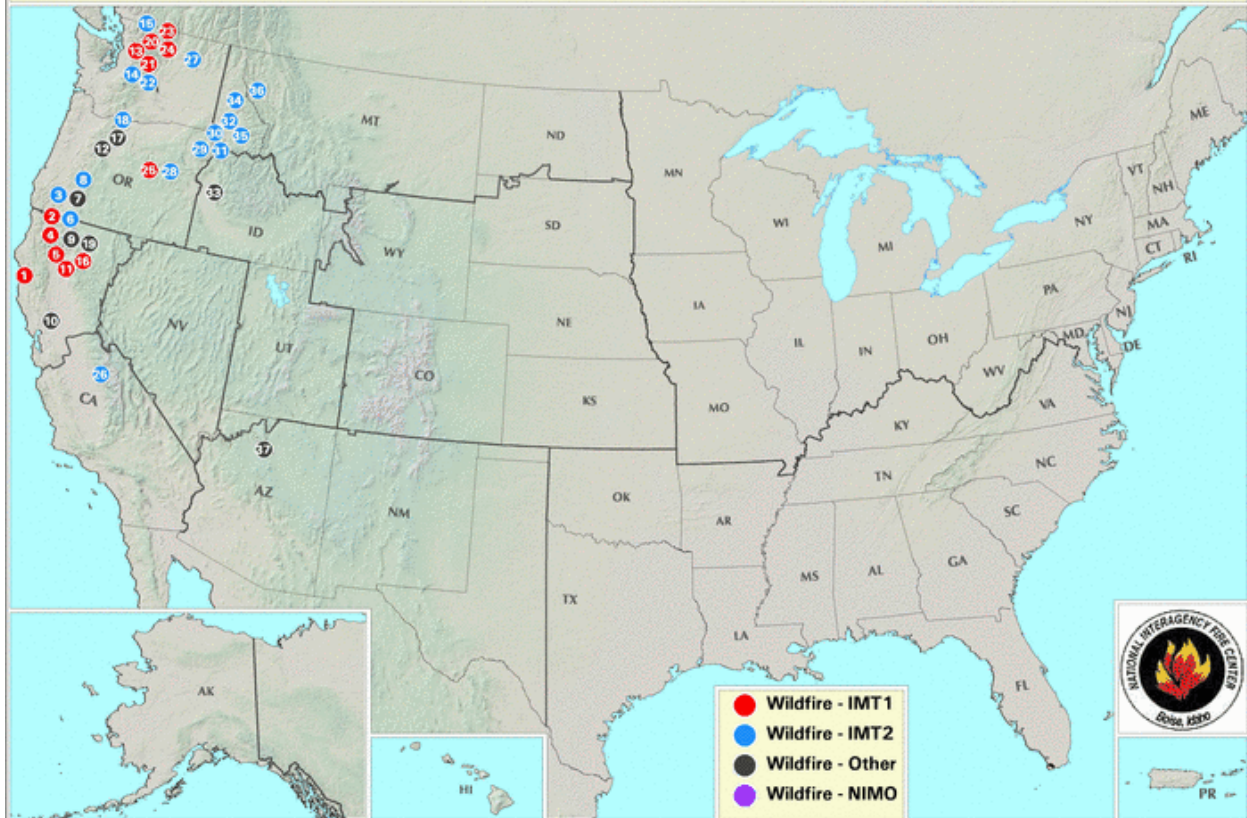
- In total, 18 NWS IMETs and 3 trainees are serving on fires in the west.
- Western WFOs continue to support non-IMET fires with spot forecasts regularly.
- Currently 10 large fire incidents exist in northern CA and southern OR with 37 ongoing fire incidents in WR - all requiring federal/state/local resources.
- The most critical time for lightning started fires is Sunday afternoon and evening (8/10) and again on Monday (8/11) and Tuesday (8/12) across OR.
- This weather pattern historically has often resulted in widespread lightning strikes across parts of northern CA and southern OR.
- This weather pattern is very conducive to nocturnal thunderstorms Sunday night and again Monday night.
- The US Forest Service Predictive Services has identified a high potential for large fire starts in northern CA for Sunday and Monday and OR for Sunday through Wednesday.

#### **NOAA/NWS Operations and Services:**

- Thunderstorm/lightning/wind threat well advertised in Hazardous Weather Outlooks, Discussions, and Weather Stories as well as traditional NWS watches/warnings.
- Threats also well advertised in emails to partners.
- Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches have been issued for northern CA and much of OR beginning midday Sunday and continuing through Tuesday.
- The majority of watches and warnings are for expected thunderstorms and resulting dry lightning as well as gusty outflow winds on dry fuels.

# Current Large Incidents

## August 10, 2014



- |                      |                         |                         |                           |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 LODGE COMPLEX      | 11 EILER                | 21 HANSEL CREEK         | 31 SOMERS                 |
| 2 LOG                | 12 BEAR BUTTE 2         | 22 SNAG CANYON          | 32 HIGH RANGE             |
| 3 BEAVER COMPLEX     | 13 CHIWAUKUM COMPLEX    | 23 UPPER FALLS          | 33 TIMBER BUTTE           |
| 4 JULY COMPLEX       | 14 SOUTH CLE ELUM RIDGE | 24 CARLTON COMPLEX      | 34 UPPER MICA COMPLEX     |
| 5 COFFEE COMPLEX     | 15 LITTLE BRIDGE CREEK  | 25 SOUTH FORK COMPLEX   | 35 JOHNSON BAR            |
| 6 KNF BEAVER         | 16 BALD                 | 26 FRENCH               | 36 THOMPSON RIVER COMPLEX |
| 7 CAMP CREEK COMPLEX | 17 NENE CREEK           | 27 DEVILS ELBOW COMPLEX | 37 MCRAE COMPLEX          |
| 8 STALEY COMPLEX     | 18 ROWENA               | 28 BALD SISTERS         |                           |
| 9 LITTLE DEER        | 19 DAY                  | 29 5 MILE               |                           |
| 10 THIRTY ONE 2      | 20 DUNCAN               | 30 BIG COUGAR           |                           |



# Dry Thunderstorms Expected Today & Tonight



Any Lightning Strikes Can Start New Fires



HIGH FIRE DANGER



SCTDRYT: Scattered dry thunderstorms  
ISODRYT: Isolated dry thunderstorms



## Wildfire Prevention & Safety Tips:

Call 911 to report a wildfire

Follow all local laws when using equipment such as lawn mowers, chainsaws and off-road vehicles.

Be a responsible camper; build safe campfires.



Photo source: abc.net.au



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National Weather Service - Medford, OR

